MULTIVERSITY

Universities and academics that remain bonded to Eurocentric curricula in today's time and age are an embarrassment to societies that only a few decades ago freed themselves from political subjugation through fiercely fought Independence movements.

Deep-rooted intellectual enslavement and dependence – a disease affecting most universities in the developing world – has generated its own profound brand of alienation, inducing most members of the student community to skip their classes, wondering why they are compelled to study what is prescribed.

Only those universities will survive in the future that can send deep roots within the communities in which they are located and develop a strong, organic relationship with them and their urgent needs.

Multiversity programmes are designed to further this re-orienting of the university – and its curricula – in our times.

The international Multiversity project was first launched at the hands of S.M. Mohamed Idris, Chairperson, Citizens International and President of the Third World Network, at an international conference of scholars from Asia, Africa and South America held in Penang, Malaysia, in the year 2002.

Its principal objective is to work closely with scholars, academics and educators to decolonise and transform education – and institutions involved with education.

The project functions through Multiversity and Taleemnet (liberation from colonially inspired schooling).

At present, Multiversity has centres of support in three countries: India, Malaysia and Iran.

It can be contacted through its coordinator via email: multiversityindia@gmail.com

www.multiworldindia.org

www.citizensinternational.org

International Conferences on Decolonisation: Malaysia

The Multiversity Project has organised, with support from various sources, six international conferences in Malaysia which have focussed exclusively on various aspects of the decolonisation agenda and activities necessary for achieving its objectives.

(l to r) Vinay Lal, S.M.Mohamed Idris, (the late) Syed Hussein Al-Attas, Claude Alvares and Ashis Nandy at the Redesign of Social Sciences Conference in 2004

1. **Launching the Multiversity,** *2002, Penang, Malaysia*
2. **Redesign of Social Science Curricula,** *November, 2004, Penang, Malaysia*
3. **Resisting Hegemony,** *August 2011, Penang, Malaysia*
4. **Decolonising Our Universities,** *June 2012, Penang, Malaysia*
5. **Decolonising the History and Philosophy of Science,** *March 2012, Alor Setar, Malaysia*
6. **Integrating Knowledge Diversity for Sustainability,** *October 2012, Alor Setar, Malaysia*

These international conferences have galvanised the academic world, inspiring a new determined wave of "decolonised" research and writing in Asia, Africa and South America with major focus on indigenous knowledge and causing considerable commotion among Western universities.

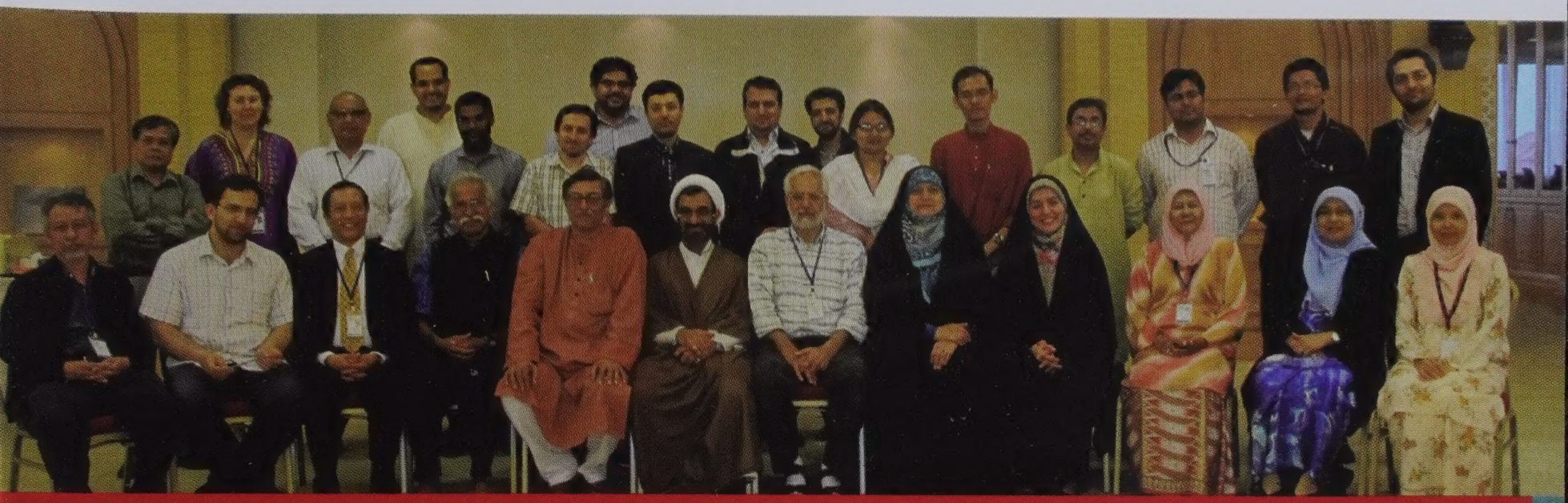
Some of these conferences have been paralleled by similar conferences on "de-westernisation" themes organised within the Islamic academic community.

Academics from countries that were never colonised have found inspiration for new projects to retrieve their own institutions and cultural histories from a debilitating Eurocentrism that has killed all traces of originality in them.

All proceedings of the Multiversity project are available on TV Multiversity.

International Conferences on Decolonisation: Iran

The Multiversity-associated conferences in Iran have been organised by the Center for International Scientific Studies and Collaboration (CISSC) in collaboration with prominent Iranian academic institutions including the Alzahra University and the Iranian Higher Education Association.



Participants of the international workshop on Decolonising the History and Philosophy of Science, AlBukhary University

1. **The 6th Learning Societies Conference** *Tehran, September 1-7, 2007*

2. **The First International Humanities Conference on "Academic Imperialism",** *Tehran, May 1-2, 2010. The proceedings of this important conference are available in both Farsi and English.*

3. **The Second International Humanities Conference on "Mysteries of Knowledge,"** *Tehran, May 25-26, 2011.*

4. **The Third International Humanities Conference on "The Spring of Wisdom,"** *Tehran, May 22-24, 2012.*

These conferences have focussed on the themes of "academic imperialism" and "de-westernisation" of the academy.

Scholars associated with Multiversity participated in all the above conferences and also in the First International Congress of Islamic Humanities held in Tehran in 2012.

Though the principal Multiversity centres are based in India, Malaysia and Iran, Multiversity conferences have invariably hosted scholars, academics and activists from many other countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

Multiversity in Iran

The Iranian contribution to Multiversity themes is available already in the form of readily available books and CDs, issued both in Farsi and English. These are all brought out by the Center for International Scientific Studies and Collaboration (CISSC) which organised the international conferences and ensured an impressive attendance from intellectuals and scholars from across the world. CISSC President is Hossein M. Doostdar.

The first book to emerge from the CISSC encounter with Multiversity was titled, *Confronting Academic Knowledge*. It contained the papers presented at the first international conference on „Academic Imperialism". CISSC also brought out an excellent CD which encapsulated videos of the main presentations in an impressive format. These are now circulating on the internet as well.

CISSC has also ensured the Farsi translation of two important Multiversity publications: *Multiversity*, which provides the transcripts of the first Multiversity conference held in Penang; and second, C.K. Raju's influential tract, *Is Science Western in Origin*.

In addition to the Multiversity conferences, CISSC has also arranged several lectures and discussions of eminent scholars and students with Yusef Progler, Hazim Shah, Munir Fasheh and C.K. Raju and his work on calculus, history of science, academic dependency, and Eurocentrism.

The most recent of the videos resulting from the Iran encounter with Multiversity includes the interviews conducted by one of Iran's popular anchors with several leading intellectuals associated with the Multiversity project.

All these books and documents are available on request from: www.cissc.ir

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You may download the discussions of the 2010 conference on "Academic Imperialism" from *www.cissc.ir/en/humanscience/si.html* or *www.cissc.ir/fa/humanscience/si.html* and the 2011 conference "Mysteries of Knowledge" at *www.cissc.ir/en/humanscience/mysteries.html*

Another World is Desirable

We - people from diverse countries* in four continents - met in your lovely city of Penang for three days from June 27-29, 2011. We were invited by Universiti Sains Malaysia and Citizens International to discuss the future of our universities and how we could decolonise them. Too many of them have become pale imitations of Western universities, with marginal creative contributions of their own and with little or no organic relation with their local communities and environments. The learning environments have become hostile, meaningless and irrelevant to our lives and concerns.

In all humility, we wish to convey to you the gist of our discussions.

We agreed that for far too long have we lived under the Eurocentric assumption - drilled into our heads by educational systems inherited from colonial regimes - that our local knowledges, our ancient and contemporary scholars, our cultural practices, our indigenous intellectual traditions, our stories, our histories and our languages portray hopeless, defeated visions no longer fit to guide our universities - therefore, better given up entirely.

We are firmly convinced that every trace of Eurocentrism in our universities - reflected in various insidious forms of western controls over publications, theories and models of research must be subordinated to our own scintillating cultural and intellectual traditions. We express our disdain at the way 'university ranking exercises' evaluate our citadels of learning on the framework assumptions of western societies. The Penang conference articulated different versions of intellectual and emotional resistance to the idea of continuing to submit our institutions of the mind and our learning to the tutelage and tyranny of western institutions.

We leave Penang with a firm resolve to work hard to restore the organic connection between our universities, our communities and our cultures. Service to the community and not just to the professions must be our primary concern. The recovery of indigenous intellectual traditions and resources is a priority task. Course structures, syllabi, books, reading materials, research models and research areas must reflect the treasury of our thoughts, the riches of our indigenous traditions and the felt necessities of our societies. This must be matched with learning environments in which students do not experience learning as a burden, but as a force that liberates the soul and leads to the upliftment of society. Above all, universities must retrieve their original task of creating good citizens instead of only good workers.

For this, we seek the support of all intellectuals and other like-minded individuals and organisations that are willing to assist us in taking this initiative further.
Thank you for hosting us, the Delegates of the International Conference on Decolonising Our Universities, June 27-29. 2011, Penang, Malaysia

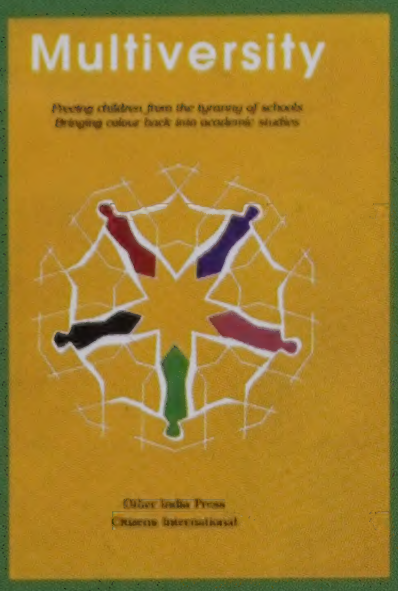
For more information please access www.multiworldindia.org

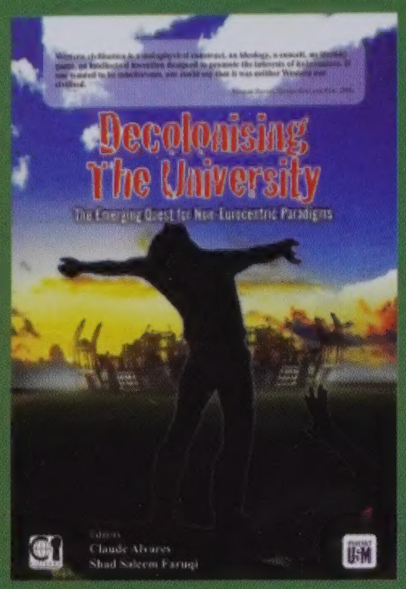
*AUSTRALIA, CHINA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, TANZANIA, THAILAND, TURKEY, UGANDA

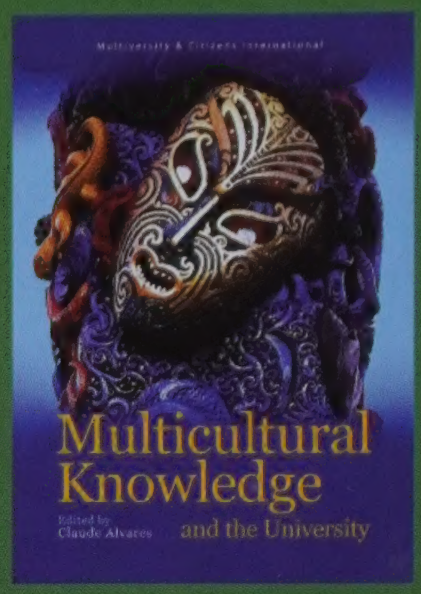
Brochure design: Tara Misra, misratara@gmail.com

Multiversity Literature

Outside conferences, Multiversity works through publications.







Multiversity has published four books: the first is *Multiversity* which contains the record of the first international conference of the project. The second is *Decolonising The Univeristy* edited by Claude Alvares and Shad Saleem Faruqi. The book reproduces the papers of the fourth international conference held in June 2011. The third is *Euclid and Jesus* by CK Raju which overturns conventional ideas associated with the existence of Euclid and the origins of mathematics. The fourth deals with multicultural knowledge and the university.

Multiversity has recruited the assistance of two well known dissenting academics to generate a series of smaller publications to raise consciousness of Multiversity concerns.

The Radical Essentials Pamphlet Series (REPS) is edited by Yusef Progler who teaches at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan.

The Series brings readers a collection of essays necessary for envisioning life beyond the hegemonic grip of western modernity, its knowledge traditions and its socio-economic systems. Pamphlets feature works by maverick thinkers operating worldwide and developing their own intellectual traditions. The focus of the series is on action-oriented critical analysis about a variety of contemporary issues, including the environment, consumerism, technology, health and education.

Multiversity Literature

The list of titles in the REPS series is provided below. The authors range from Ivan Illich to John Mohawk, Naquib-al-Attas, Ali Shariati, and Rabindranath Tagore. All original writing by eminent thinkers who decided "the system" was the gravest threat that humanity faced at any time in recorded history.

RADICAL ESSENTIALS PAMPHLET SERIES

1. Albert Memmi, THE COLONIZER AND THE COLONIZED
2. Ivan Illich, REDEFINING EDUCATION
3. Emmanuel Todd, AFTER THE EMPIRE
4. Marco Pallis, DO CLOTHES MAKE THE PERSON?
5. John Mohawk, A BASIC CALL TO CONSCIOUSNESS
6. Naquib al-Attas: THE DE-WESTERNIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE
7. David F. Noble, DIGITAL DIPLOMA MILLS
8. Malcom X, MALCOM X - WHY I'M NOT AN AMERICAN
9. Jalal Al-e Ahmad, OCCIDENTOSIS
10. Ali Shariati, ENLIGHTENED THINKERS AND THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIETY
11. Ward Churchill, WHITE STUDIES
12. Ali Shariati, CIVILIZATION AND MODERNIZATION
13. Paulo Freire, PEDAGOGY OF THE OPRESSED
14. Ahmad Ghorab, SUBVERTING ISLAM
15. Rabindranath Tagore, CITY AND VILLAGE

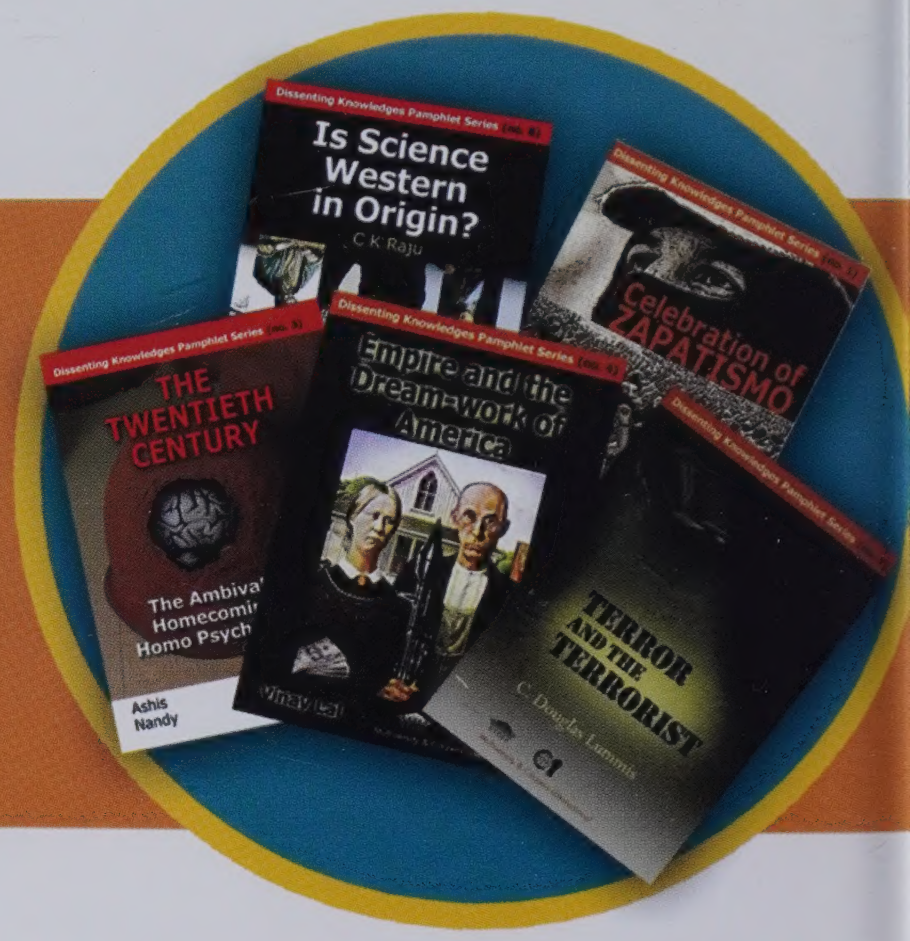
Multiversity Literature

The Dissenting Knowledges Pamphlet Series is introduced and edited by Prof. Vinay Lal presently at UCLA, USA.

The pamphlet series is built on the twin recognitions that there is today no more urgent task than understanding the political and epistemological consequences of the imposition of the West upon the entire world, and at the same time endeavoring to work, in myriad ways, towards the decolonization of academic disciplines.

It seeks to furnish intellectuals, scholars, and activists who are committed to harvesting theories of knowledge, livelihoods and lifestyles, and forms of political awareness that are calculated to create more genuine forms of equality, justice, and plurality with a more public forum of informed and dissenting opinion than is customarily available through scholarly monographs and learned journals. The list of these booklets in that series is provided below:

DISSENTING KNOWLEDGE PAMPHLET SERIES



1. Gustavo Esteva, CELEBARATION OF ZAPATISMO
2. Frédérique Apffel-Marglin & Margaret Bruchac, EXORCISING ANTHROPOLOGY'S DEMONS
3. Ashis Nandy, The Twentieth Century: THE AMBIVALENT HOMECOMING OF HOMO PSYCHOLOGICUS
4. Vinay Lal, EMPIRE AND THE DREAM-WORK OF AMERICA
5. Roby Rajan, THE TYRANNY OF ECONOMICS: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND THE DISMAL SCIENCE
6. Nancy Scheper-Hughes, The Last Commodity: POST-HUMANETHICS, GLOBAL (IN)JUSTICE AND THE TRAFFIC IN ORGANS
7. C. Douglas Lummis, TERROR AND THE TERRORIST
8. C.K. Raju, IS SCIENCE WESTERN IN ORIGIN?
9. James Carse, IGNORANCE AND THE DURABILITY OF RELIGION: A PARABLE
10. D.P. Agrawal, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS: CULTURE, ECOLOGY AND WAYS OF KNOWING
11. Claude Alvares, A FAREWELL TO THE EUROCENTRIC IMAGINATION

Multiversity Media

TV Multiversity

MULTIVERSITY OPERATES A TELEVISION BROADCAST CALLED TV MULTIVERSITY WHICH FEATURES NOT JUST THE TALKS, SPEECHES, LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING THE MULTIVERSITY CONFERENCES IN MALAYSIA AND IRAN, BUT A RANGE OF DIVERSE MATERIALS LINKED TO MULTIVERSITY CONCERNS.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

The Multiversity project at the moment is actively involved in drafting decolonised or more cosmopolitan courses in all the disciplines conventionally taught to students in today's universities. A beginning has been made in Philosophy, Mathematics and in the History and Philosophy of Science. Course redesign in the immediate future will include Psychology, Sociology and Political Science curricula.

KAMIRIITHU
Multiversity Newsletter

MULTIVERSITY BRINGS OUT AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER BY THE NAME KAMIRIITHU. THE NEWSLETTER REFLECTS THE WORK DONE WITHIN THE MULTIVERSITY PROJECT IN TERMS OF LIBERATING LEARNING FROM THE STRANGLE-HOLD OF FORMAL INSTITUTIONS AND CORPORATE DEMANDS. IT ALSO DISCUSSES ALTERNATIVES TO EUROCENTRIC CURRICULA.

NON-EUROPEAN CURRICULUM SOURCEBOOK

In order to encourage further thinking in this direction and in order to reflect the growing work in this area all over the globe, Multiversity has initiated work on a non-eurocentric curriculum source book which it will publish before the end of 2012.

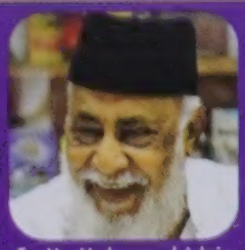
Multiversity Internet

THOUGH THESE COURSES ARE BEING DESIGNED AS TEMPLATES WHICH CAN BE USED AS FOUNDATIONS FOR COURSES IN "DECOLONISING" UNIVERSITIES EVERYWHERE, THEY WILL ALSO SHORTLY BE AVAILABLE FOR USE THROUGH THE INTERNET FOR STUDENTS WORLDWIDE.

Multiversity e-Library

THE MULTIVERSITY E-LIBRARY IS AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO BOOKS BY SCHOLARS AND INTELLECTUALS FROM ASIA, AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA. THE BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AS FREE DOWNLOADS FROM http://-multiworldindia.org/multiversity/multiversity-library/

Scholars and academics associated with Multiversity


S. M. Mohamed Idris

Dzulkifli Razak

Sue-san Ghahremani Ghajar

Yousef Progler

Martin Khor

Gloria Emeagwali

Vimbai Chivaura

Shruti Rana

SCHOLARS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN MULTIVERSITY CONFERENCES AND ACTIVITIES AND/OR SUBSCRIBE TO ITS OBJECTIVES:

Syed Farid Alatas, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Cheng-Feng Shih, National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan
Y. Progler, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan
Omar Farouk, AlBukhary International University, Malaysia
Zhou Li, Renmin University, China
Erwin Soriano Fernandez, Abung na Panagbasay Pangasinan, Philippines
Joan R Valenzuela, the Philippines
Lee Seunghwan, Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), South Korea
Darryl Macer, Regional Advisor on Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand
Ms Napat Chaipraditkul, Eubios Ethics Institute Bangkok, Thailand
Akomolafe Adebayo Clement, Covenant University, Nigeria
Babuuzibwa Mukasa Luutu, Vice Chancellor of Marcus Garvey Pan-Afrikan University, Uganda
Shadrack Gutto, University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria, South Africa
Arif Ersoy, Professor of Economics, Ankara, Turkey
Ibrahim Pur, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey
Zafrullah Choudhury, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Bangladesh
Jamal Nazrul Islam, University of Chittagong, Dacca, Bangladesh
Ataur Rahman Khan, Gono Bishwabidyalay, Bangladesh
C K Raju, Delhi, Distinguished Professor, Inmantec, Ghaziabad, India
Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Rajya Sabha, India
Claude Alvares, Multiversity/Other India Press, Goa, India
Pavan K Varma, Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
Ashis Nandy, former Fellow of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, India
Shyam Menon, Vice-Chancellor, Dr B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, India
Vinay Lal, Professor of History at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA
Rajaram Tolpadi, Department of Politics, Mangalore University, Karnataka, India
Vishram Gupte, Marathi fiction writer, Goa, India
Manish Jain, Founder, Swaraj University, Udaipur, India
Shyam Singh, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, India
Hossein Mohammadi Doostdar, President of the Center for International Scientific Studies and Collaboration, Iran
Sue-san Ghahremani Ghajar, AlZahra University, Tehran, Iran
Seyyed-Abdolhamid Mirhosseini, Tarbiat Modarress University, Tehran, Iran
Sayed Abulhassan Navab, President of the University of Religions and Denominations, Qom, Iran
Abdolhossein Khosropanah, Islamic scholar, Iran
Asghar Zarei, Advisor to the Minister of Science, Research & Technology, Tehran, Iran
Mohammad Reza Aghaya, Vice-President, University of Religions and Denominations, Pardisan, Qom, Iran
Mahdi Hamidi Parsa, Vice president, Islamic School of Art (ISOA), Tehran, Iran
Roghayyeh Rostampour, AlZahra University, Tehran, Iran
Shaikh Abdul Mabud, Director General, Islamic Academy, Cambridge, United Kingdom
James Campbell, Deakin University, Australia
Massoud Shadjareh, Director, Islamic Human Rights Commission, London, UK
Molefi Asante, Professor of Africology at Temple University, USA
Shad Saleem Faruqi, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia
Ahmad Murad Merican, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Seri Iskandar, Perak, Malaysia
S.M Mohamed Idris, Third World Network; Citizens International; Consumers Association of Penang
Sean Asiqluq Topkok, Alaska Native Knowledge Network, USA
Ms Juliana McLaughlin, Lecturer | Oodgeroo Unit | Chancellery, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Evangelos Afendras, Professor of Sociolinguistics, AlBukhary International University, Alor Setar, Malaysia
Todd Ormiston, University of Victoria, BC, Canada
Hood Salleh, Emeritus Professor at the National University of Malaysia
Surajit Sarkar, Faculty, Centre for Community Knowledge, Ambedkar University, Delhi
Wikuki Kingi,Pou Kapua Pacific,Te Ranga Arts Academy, Aotearoa (New Zealand)
Prof.Dr.Yos Santasombat, Professor of Anthropology, Chiangmai University, Thailand
Tania Wolfgramm, Pou Kapua Academy of Culture, Arts, Science & Enterprise, Aotearoa
Surajit Sarkar, Faculty, Centre for Community Knowledge, Ambedkar University, Delhi

Mohideen Kader, Vice President of Consumers Association of Penang
Anwar Fazal, Director, The Right Livelihood College, Penang, Malaysia
Dzulkifli Razak, Vice-Chancellor of AlBukhary International University, Malaysia
Mohd Hazim Shah, President of the Malaysian Social Science Association, Malaysia
Ismail Hashim, Universiti Selangor (UNISEL), Malaysia
Pawan K Gupta, Society for Integrated Development of Himalayas, India
Sunil Sahasrabudhey, India
Prof. B S Chimni, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
Lim Jee Yuan, Consumers Association of Penang, Malaysia
Prof. Hassan Omari Kaya, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
Ms Jacquie Green, School of Social Work, University of Victoria, Canada
Jessica Hutchings, Victoria University, New Zealand
Gustavo Esteva, Centre de Encuentros y Dialogos Interculturales, Mexico
Ziauddin Sardar, writer, UK
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, University of California, USA
Wasif Rizvi, Karachi, Pakistan
Mohamed Iqbal Asaria, UK
Vandana Shiva, Bija Vidyapeeth, India
Mira Shiva, Health Action Professional, India
Iain Buchanan, Author and Researcher, Malaysia
Syed Arabi Idid, Rector, International Islamic University, Malaysia
Anu Kapur, Geographer, India
Fred Y.L. Chiu, Hong Kong
Roby Rajan, USA
Martin Khor, Director, South Centre, Switzerland
Clemens Aquino, the Philippines
Simeon Albert Materechera, IKS Centre of Excellence, North West University, South Africa
Vimbai Chivaura, Africa
Gloria Emeagwali, USA
Jorge Ishizawa, PRATEC, Peru, Andes
Tetsu Sato, Professor, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan
Shruti Rana, Shruti Foundation, New Delhi
Anne Kisaka Nangulu, Department of History, Political Science and Public Administration, Moi University, Kenya
Munir Fasheh, al-Quds University, Palestine
Zane Marhea, Faculty of Education, Monash University, Australia
Debal Deb, Chair, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, Kolkata, India
Toyin Kolawole, Senior Research Scholar at the Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana

INSTITUTIONS WITH MULTIVERSITY

THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS HAVE AT ONE TIME OR THE OTHER COLLABORATED WITH MULTIVERSITY AND ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH ITS DECOLONISING PROJECT:

- Center for International Scientific Studies and Collaboration (CISSC), Tehran, Iran
- AlBukhary International University, Alor Star, Kedah, Malaysia
- Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia
- Citizens' International, Penang, Malaysia
- The Right Livelihood College, USM, Penang, Malaysia
- Other India Press, Goa, India
- Dr B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi, India
- Shikshantar, Udaipur, India
- Swaraj University, Udaipur, India
- Centre de Encuentros y Dialogos Interculturales, Mexico
- Marcus Garvey Pan Afrikan University, Uganda
- Alzahra University, Tehran, Iran

Anwar Fazal

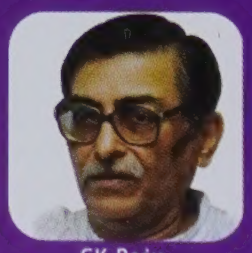
Mohideen Kader

Claude Alvares

Shad Saleem Farouqi

Hossein Mohammadi Doostdar

Ashis Nandy


CK Raju

Babuuzibwa Luutu

Taleemnet and Schooling

The Multiversity project also links up several networks which critique school education through Taleemnet. The existing education system, like the university, remains deeply mired in the ideas, spirit and goals of the colonial age. Taleemnet runs its own website and is associated with the Learning Society's unConferences which have taken place in several parts of the world. For more information on LSUCs, follow the links:
http://www.swaraj.org/shikshantar/ls_discussion.html

Children at Sholai School, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, India

THE LEARNING SOURCEBOOK

"More and more parents of schoolage children are seeking creative ways of education for their wards - indicative of a clear rejection of the factory type schooling system carried forward from colonial times. The Learning Sourcebook, almost nearing completion, is designed to provide the much needed information and courage to this growing community of pioneering parents and educators."